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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Thirty-ninth session
15 March-4 April 1995
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS THIRTY-NINTH SESSION

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Selma ASHIPALA (Namibia)

Chapter ___

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its thirty-ninth session at United Nations Headquarters from 15 March-4 April 1995. The Commission held __ meetings and a number of informal meetings as a Working Group of the Whole.

2. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. In his statement he emphasized the importance of the thirty-ninth session of the Commission in the process of preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing. He stressed the importance of incorporating into the preparations for the Conference the results and achievements of the other United Nations Conferences. He pointed out that the Fourth World Conference on Women and all the other United Nations conferences were searching for the appropriate role of public policies, with special emphasis on the perspective of women. All those conferences had attempted to define the responsibility of all political and public actors in the emerging new paradigm for social and political processes. It was important to achieve synergy among Governments, representatives of the private sector and non-governmental organizations in their efforts to create a real civil society. Non-governmental organizations had played a crucial role in getting the issues of sustainable development, civil society and participatory democracy on the

global agenda. He also addressed the vital role of women in development and negative consequences of prevailing gender inequality for any society.

3. In her opening statement, the Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women stressed that the preparatory process at the national and regional levels had proceeded successfully owing to the strong involvement of Governments, international political, financial and development organizations, the private sector, academic and research institutions, donors and, especially, non-governmental organizations. All United Nations conferences had demonstrated that it was imperative to address the gender dimension in finding solutions to problems that faced the world today. In that respect the Fourth World Conference on Women would provide the opportunity for Governments to commit themselves to specific actions. It would be a forum where non-governmental organizations not only proposed solutions to women's problems, but presented women's vision of a peaceful, developed and just world.

4. The main document of the Conference - the Platform for Action - would spell out the practical steps required to bring about the necessary changes. Furthermore, the Platform for Action provided a script to each of the actors and would make them accountable to women. Accountability, she stressed, demanded the re-examination of priorities and the reallocation of resources. It entailed the enactment, review and enforcement of laws so as to afford women equal opportunities in all spheres of life, including participation in political and economic decision-making.

B. Attendance

5. The session was attended by representatives of __ States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in annex __ to the present report.

C. Election of officers

6. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/21, the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission at its thirty-eighth session continued to serve as officers during the thirty-ninth session, with the exception of the Rapporteur, as Côte d'Ivoire was no longer a member of the Commission. The Bureau comprised:

Chairperson: Ms. Patricia Licuanan (Philippines)

Vice-Chairpersons: Ms. Irene Freudenschuss-Reichl (Austria)
Ms. Natalia Drozd (Belarus)
Ms. Olga Pellicer (Mexico)

Rapporteur: Ms. Selma Ashipala (Namibia)

D. Agenda and organization of work

7. At the 1st meeting, on 15 March, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, contained in document E/CN.6/1995/1, as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace:

   (a) Preparatory activities at the national, regional and international levels;

   (b) Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

   (c) Reports from regional conferences and other international conferences;

   (d) Draft rules of procedure;

   (e) Draft Platform for Action;

   (f) Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

4. Programming and coordination matters related to the United Nations and the United Nations system.

5. Monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

6. Priority themes:

   (a) Equality: Equality in economic decision-making;

   (b) Development: Promotion of literacy, education and training, including technological skills;

   (c) Peace: Women in international decision-making.

7. Provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Commission.

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-ninth session.

8. Also at the 1st meeting, the Commission approved the proposed organization of work for the session (E/CN.6/1995/L.2), as well as the proposal of the Bureau to take up the priority themes (item 6) during the discussion of the draft Platform for Action (item 3 (e)).

9. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Ms. Irene Freudenschuss-Reichl (Austria) was appointed Chairperson of the Informal Working Group of the Whole to work on the draft Platform for Action, as well as other matters related to the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

E. Friends of the Rapporteur

10. At the 1st meeting, on 15 March, the Commission decided to establish an informal group of Friends of the Rapporteur, nominated by the regional groups, to assist the Rapporteur in completing the report of the Commission at its thirty-ninth session.

Kathleen Townsend (Australia)

Sharon Brennen-Maylock (Bahamas)

Manuela Rosa (Guinea-Bissau)

Jaroslaw Strejczek (Poland)

F. Participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the Commission

11. At the 1st meeting, on 15 March, the Commission agreed to grant observer status to the intergovernmental organizations listed in paragraph 2 of document E/CN.6/1995/L.5, as well as to the two entities listed in paragraph 3 thereof, on the understanding that they be placed in a separate category.

G. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

12. At its 1st meeting, on 15 March, the Commission approved ad referendum the list of non-governmental organizations contained in document E/CN.6/1995/L.4 and Add.1-3.

13. At the 6th meeting, on 20 March, the Commission adopted the list of non-governmental organizations contained in document E/CN.6/1995/L.4 and Add.1-3.

14. At the same meeting the observer of the Holy See requested that the following statement be reflected in the report:

[Statement to be attached]

15. At the ___ meeting, on __ March, the Commission decided to

H. Consultations with non-governmental organizations

16. Written statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in accordance with rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1) are listed in annex __ to the present report.

I. Appointment of the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

17. At the 1st meeting, on 15 March, the Commission decided to establish a Working Group to consider, under agenda item 5, communications regarding the status of women, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27. The following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed:

Ljudmila-Bozhkova (Bulgaria)

Feng Cui (China)

Clara Inés Vargas (Colombia)

Regina Tavares da Silva (Portugal)

Wahid Ben Amor (Tunisia)